

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, HOUSTON DIVISION**

MARANDA LYNN O'DONNELL, et al.)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 16-cv-01414
)	(Consolidated Class Action)
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, et al.)	The Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal
)	U.S. District Judge
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

NOTICE AND EXPLANATION OF NEW LOCAL RULE

The Harris County Criminal Court at Law Judges, Harris County, the Harris County Sheriff, the Harris County Hearing Officers, and the Plaintiffs jointly file this Notice, informing the Court that the Judges promulgated Amended Local Rule 9.1, *see* Exhibit 1, on January 17, 2019,¹ eliminating the secured bail schedule as a means of making release and detention decisions. The Rule was a collaborative effort: it was the product of intensive study by the Plaintiffs, Defendants, and other stakeholders in Harris County, including the Sheriff and his command staff, the Harris County District Attorney, the Harris County Public Defender, Presiding Judge Darrell Jordan, and all sixteen judges of the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law. It was developed in coordination with the District Attorney and Public Defender to ensure that its implementation is feasible and has the support of all Harris County officials whose cooperation will be essential to the misdemeanor bail system functioning in a constitutional and effective manner. The Judges'

¹ The parties may continue to refine the language jointly during the implementation process to clarify and to address implementation issues. *See, e.g.*, Exhibit 3 (the Judges intend to make the clarifying, non-substantive line-edits to the Rule promulgated on Jan. 16, reflected in the redlined document). The parties will notify the Court promptly of any updates to the local rule.

Rule requires implementation by February 16, 2018. Key provisions are explained in the accompanying Brief. *See* Exhibit 2.

The parties believe that the new rule provides a foundation for a broader, global settlement and consent decree that could resolve Plaintiffs' challenge to the County's misdemeanor bail policies and practices. The Parties are working toward that goal and are prepared to address the details of the new rule at the February 1 hearing.

Date: January 25, 2019

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 25th day of January, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the clerk of the court for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, using the electronic case filing system of the Court. The electronic case filing system sent a “Notice of Electronic Filing” to the attorneys of record who have consented in writing to accept this Notice as service of this document by electronic means.

/s/ Elizabeth Rossi
Elizabeth Rossi